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SURVEY OF FLOOD DAMAGE AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS
IN CHINA, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1952

Summary: Steady rains for 20 days in the Yen-ch'eng, Kiangsu, area have resulted in much spoilage of both standing and harvested grain. Incomplete information from all over the Yen-ch'eng Special Administrative District indicates that over 600,000 mou (one mou equals one sixth acre) are under water from 7 to 12 inches deep. A directive by the Communist Party Committee of the Yen-ch'eng area has ordered all party and government staffs into the country to aid in the salvage work.

Heavy rains along the upper and middle reaches of the Huai Ho, with a precipitation of from 150 to 425 millimeters, have provided a test, with favorable results, of the conservation work carried out in the area during the last 2 years.

Delegates attending a Basic Construction Conference called by the North Anhwei Administration Office saw a bright future for both food and industrial crops in North Anhwei when all the engineering projects now in process in the Huai Ho Basin in North Kiangsu are completed.

Conservation activities on the Yellow River during the last 3 years have strengthened the dikes along 1,300 kilometers of the stream in Honan, Pingyuan, and Shantung. They will now successfully contain the pressure of a flow of 23,000 cubic meters per second.

Work on the dam of the Fo-tzu-ling reservoir, a part of the Huai Ho conservancy system, was stepped up in August. Year-round river navigation will be stabilized and 500,000 mou of land irrigated by water from this reservoir. The Pai-shan irrigation canal in Anhwei is nearing completion. A drainage tunnel, 1,235 meters long, under the Grand Canal in northern Kiangsu has been completed. The re-direction of the I Ho in Shantung has eliminated all flood threats to the farmers in the area.

- 1 -

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CROPS INUNDATED AROUND YEN-CH'ENG, KIANGSU -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 3 Sep 52

Steady rains have been falling since 22 August in the Yen-ch'eng Special Administrative District of Kiangsu. Great quantities of rice, harvested, unharvested, and in storage, have been inundated. From 10 to 15 percent of this grain has sprouted. Most of the unharvested rice has lodged. Both men and women have been mobilized everywhere in the area to dig drainage ditches and operate pumps.

GOVERNMENT STAFFS DIRECT SALVAGE OPERATIONS -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 8 Sep 52

Incomplete reports from all parts of the Yen-ch'eng Special Administrative District reveal that over 600,000 mou of crops have been inundated. Cotton and beans are spoiling, 30 percent of the rice has sprouted, and corn is heating and mildewing. Staffs of the Special Administrative District and hsien government offices have gone out to organize the rural areas for drainage and salvage measures.

By 28 August, workers in She-yang Hsien had drained 80 percent of the inundated land in that hsien. All labor resources have been mobilized for round-the clock effort. In Yen-ch'eng Hsien 100,000 people have harvested 100,000 mou of crops in the rain. In one area of Yen-ch'eng Hsien every available temple, as well as all other empty buildings, is filled with sheaves spread out to dry. Wood ashes and lime have been mixed with threshed grain to hasten the drying. Intensive salvage efforts are continuing.

PARTY COMMITTEE ISSUES FLOOD SALVAGE DIRECTIVE -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 9 Sep 52

Tens of thousands of mou of crops both above and below ground have been inundated and crop spoilage is great according to a directive issued by the Yen-ch'eng Committee of the Communist Party. The directive states:

1. Drainage activities and crop salvage are the tasks of first priority for all party members and people.
2. All hsien authorities and staff members that can be spared should go into the fields to lead in these activities. Hsien party training classes can be delayed or suspended, and other regular operations may also be suspended. All organized farm groups should be engaged in meeting the emergency.
3. All party cadres must be jolted out of their pessimism and tendency to think there is no human way out or that it is necessary to wait for good weather to do something. If they will in humility consult with the masses a great many fine ideas for coping with the situation are sure to emerge.
4. Controversies over remedial measures must be avoided and all measures that divide the people should also be avoided. Interests of the families of heroes, soldiers, and laborers must be protected.
5. Each hsien committee should prepare a daily activity report and telephone it to the Yen-ch'eng District Committee.

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

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HUAI HO CONSERVANCY WORKS PROVE WORTH -- Ho-fai, Anhwei Jih-pac, 30 Sep 52

Rains in the middle and upper reaches of the Huai Ho valley during late August and early September, that amounted to from 150 to 425 millimeters in 20 days, have provided a severe test of the conservancy works in the Huai Ho Basin. The amount of the precipitation was only a little less than that of 1950 which resulted in disastrous floods throughout the area.

On 2 September, the crest of the flood at the confluence of the Hung Ho and the Huai Ho reached 28.37 meters and was very near the top of the dikes. On the same day, the water level in the Meng Ho reached within 0.07 meters of the level set for opening the lock into the flood retention basin. On the Jun Ho in Anhwei, on 3 September, the flood crest reached 26.2 meters, one meter above the danger stage. Without the work that has been carried out during the last 2 years, 1950 flood conditions would have been repeated. However, this time there were no breaches of dikes either on the main stream or its branches. Ten million mou of land were thus saved from calamity.

At the height of the flood crest at the mouth of the Hung Ho, the Huai Ho Flood-Prevention Command Headquarters ordered the opening of the Meng Ho flood diversion channel. This resulted in the rapid dropping of the flood crest, saved the dikes of the main stream and a great area of fall crops in the Honan-Anhwei border region. Since the flood crest did not quite reach the level set for the opening of the locks to the Meng Ho and Ch'eng hsi Hu retention basins, crops growing in these basins were saved from loss. Under the present arrangement a winter wheat crop can always be raised in these low-lying areas. If the locks are not opened a fall crop can also be harvested. In the old days a fall crop was almost never possible in these areas.

During the last 2 years, several of the branches of the Huai Ho have been dredged and other corrective measures have been carried out. During the recent big flood there were no dike breaks along any of these streams and they aided greatly in carrying off the flood load. The direct loss from rain in the fields was also much less this year than in 1950. In 1950, when 50 millimeters of rain fell in one day, the whole area of several hsien was flooded. In 1952, when 100 millimeters of water fell in one day and 300 millimeters in 8 days the water drained off quickly as a result of the conservancy work of the past 2 years. Damage to crops was slight. Locks erected at the mouths of a number of branches of the Huai Ho prevented flood waters from the main stream from backing up into the branches and flooding land along their banks.

In a few especially low areas where conservancy plans have not yet been carried out rain flooding of fields was rather serious, but the party committees quickly mobilized hundreds of thousands of people to drain the land and save the crops. Incomplete returns from Su Hsien, for instance, indicate that crops were saved on 1,900,000 mou of land.

In general, the work done in controlling the Huai Ho during the last 2 years stood well the test of this near-maximum flood situation.

ENGINEERING CONFERENCE SURVEYS CONSERVANCY PROGRAM -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 3 Sep 52

A North Kiangsu Basic Construction Engineering Conference was convened 15 to 20 August under the auspices of the Finance and Economic Committee of the Su-pei Administrative Office. The conference noted that 3 years of work by a million workers had basically curbed the Huai Ho and work on the I Ho and Shu Ho has protected 5 million mou of land from flood conditions. When the North Kiangsu trunk irrigation canal is finished 20 million mou will be provided with irrigation facilities as well as being protected from floods. As a result of the work already completed or in progress all North Kiangsu has been assured of a speedy return to prewar production levels for food and industrial crops.

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

However, certain shortcomings involving wasteful practices have shown up due to lack of unified planning and construction plus incompetence and neglect on the part of cadres in charge. Specifications were not met and there was failure to carry out proper supervision. For example, in constructing a bridge at Yang-chou the channel was narrowed so much that it accelerated the speed of the current and boats are frequently driven against piers and damaged. The job will eventually have to be done over. There has also been poor budgeting and supervision of funds.

The vice-chairman of the conference made the following recommendations for improvement:

1. Specially responsible men should be placed in charge and better coordination maintained between agencies.
2. Results of former construction work should be carefully inspected and reports correlated. All projects should be carefully inspected before accepted as completed. Give cadres better training.
3. Maintain an orderly program of construction and permit no construction without adequate planning. Strengthen the feeling of responsibility and on-the-job supervision by supervisors.
4. Hasten completion of 1952 projects and prepare plans and materials for 1953 projects.

YELLOW RIVER TAMED AND HARNESSSED -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 26 Sep 52

During the last 6 years, particularly during the last 3, much has been done along the Yellow River to convert its age-old menace into a promise of great advantage to the hundreds of millions of people in its basin. The dikes of this river in Honan, Pingyuan, and Shantung provinces have traditionally been unable to contain high floods. According to engineers, a flow of 4,000 cubic meters per second at Shan Hsien, Honan, would make breaches in the dike below there quite certain and a flow of 10,000 cubic meters per second would create a 70 per-cent certainty of breaches. Hence the most urgent task of the past 6 years has been to strengthen these dikes.

Repairs have been made along 1,300 kilometers of the main dikes involving 82 million cubic meters of earthwork. Tens of thousands of weak spots in the dikes on the lower reaches of the river that formerly were repaired with corn stalks have now been repaired with stone involving 1,700,000 cubic meters of stone work. Under the leadership of the Communist party and the local governments the efficiency of workers on dikes has been raised from the ability to move one cubic meter of earth per day to the ability to move up to 4 cubic meters.

To protect the dikes from erosion, 4,890,000 trees have been planted and 17,670,000 patches of grass sown. Over 42,500 minor dike cave-ins and surface washes have been repaired in the lower reaches of the river. Inasmuch as the carrying capacity of the lower reaches of the river is still only that of ordinary, high water the Central People's Government has provided two retention basins, one at Shih-t'ou-chuang in Ch'ang-yuan Hsien in Pingyuan, and the other at Hsiao-chieh-tzu in Li-chin Hsien, Shantung. The former basin will impound flood waters caused by unusual rains and the latter will impound water backed up by ice jams near the mouth of the river. With these basins it should be possible to care safely for high water similar to that occurring in 1933 when the flow at Shan Hsien was 23,000 cubic meters per second.

Two important solid masonry structures undertaken are the Huang-yang irrigation lock in Suiyuan Province and the Chi-wei irrigation and water level stabilization lock in Pingyuan. The first is already providing irrigation for 400,000 mou of land with great expansion capacity when the canal system is expanded. The second provides for irrigation along the banks of the Wei Ho in Hopeh and Pingyuan as well as (by releasing Yellow River water into the Wei)

- 4 -

RESTRICTED

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stabilizing the year-round level of the Wei at a flow of 10 to 20 cubic meters per second. This will make possible year-round river commerce from Hsin-hsiang, capital of Pingyuan Province, to Tientsin. There are also electric power possibilities in these locks and both industry and agriculture stand to be greatly benefited by the Yellow River conservancy program of the Central People's Government.

WORK ON FO-TZU-LING RESERVOIR SPEEDED UP -- Ho-fei, Anhwei Jih-pao, 23 Sep 52.

Peng-fou, 21 September (Hsin-hua) -- During August, the placing of reinforcing steel, form building, and concrete pouring was speeded up over July by from 300 to 500 percent on the Fo-tzu-ling Reservoir located on the P'i Ho, a branch of the Huai Ho. About 3,000 engineers and technicians and the same number of peasants and soldiers are employed. The peasants continually suggest better methods of labor that speed up construction.

The Fo-tzu-ling Reservoir dam is of the modern joined-arch type of construction, the first of its type in China and the third highest of this type in the world. It is 516.2 meters long and 65 meters high at the highest point. The construction of a dam of this type and size requires much complicated machinery, such as electric blowers, electric motors, concrete mixers, pile drivers, test drills, mortar pouring machines, high-pressure spraying machines, etc. All the machines for this project have been manufactured in Shanghai, Tsinan, Peiping, and other Chinese cities. This is the first time that such machinery has been produced in China.

This reservoir, which is on the east branch of the P'i Ho, when supplemented by the Hsiang-hung-tien Reservoir, to be constructed on the west branch of the P'i Ho, will eliminate all flood threats for the farmers along both banks of the P'i Ho and substantially reduce the flood load on the Huai Ho itself. The impounded waters will be ample for the irrigation of 500,000 mou of farm land and make possible an extra crop of wheat annually.

Navigation on the P'i Ho will also be greatly facilitated permitting year-round commerce in wooden boats of 50 tons burden. This reservoir can also produce 4,000 kilowatts of hydroelectric power, providing not only lights for Hoshan, Liu-an, and other cities, but also power for paper mills, chemical and glass works, sawmills, and agricultural products processing plants; in short the development of a new industrial area along the P'i Ho.

PAI-SHAN IRRIGATION PROJECT NEAR COMPLETION -- Ho-fei, Anhwei Jih-pao, 3 Aug 52

The Pai-shan Irrigation Canal in Nan-ling Hsien, Anhwei, is nearing completion. It is 15 kilometers long and 7-9 meters deep in places. Concrete locks are being installed. The digging required the labor of 480,000 people from March through June (67 working days). They moved 620,800 cubic meters of material. Excavations for the inlet locks, the siphon outlets, etc., have all been made and the concrete is being poured. Hundreds of vehicles and boats were employed in transporting materials to the installation sites. Already the standing water in the canal has been used to irrigate 300 mou of land in danger of drought.

TUNNEL UNDER GRAND CANAL COMPLETED -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 8 Sep 52

A drainage tunnel under the Grand Canal was completed on 19 August after 85 days of work. The tunnel which joins the eastern and western sections of the large drainage canal in Huai-an Hsien is 1,235 meters long. It will permit the drainage of 700,000 mou of land west of the Grand Canal that has heretofore been flooded annually.

- 5 -

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NEW I HO CHANNEL INSURES ALL-SEASON CROPS -- Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 3 Sep 52

The redirection of the I Ho into its new channel makes possible crops throughout the season for the farmers in the area. In the past, they could only depend on half-season crops.

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- 6 -

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